THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • DECEMBER 03, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION

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The KnockOut punch

Japan and Morocco played beyond expectations. Germany and Belgium exit. After an exciting group stages, the knock-outs begin from Saturday. A look at who plays whom in the Round of 16 and potential clashes

TOP HALF

DECEMBER 3
8.30 PM
Netherlands vs USA
12.30 AM (Sun)
Argentina vs Australia

DECEMBER 5
8.30 PM
Japan vs Croatia
12.30 AM (Tue)
To Be Decided (❶ Brazil) vs South Korea

BOTTOM HALF

DECEMBER 4
8.30 PM
France vs Poland
12.30 AM (Mon)
England vs Senegal

DECEMBER 6
8.30pm
Morocco vs Spain
12.30 AM (Wed)
Portugal vs To Be Decided (❷ Switzerland)

AS IT STANDS
❶ Brazil
❷ Swizerland

Group G matches don't finish before late night

South Korea's Hwang Hee-chan celebrates after scoring the winning goal against Portugal on Friday. South Korea move into R-16 with 2-1 victory | AP | PTI

THREE

THREE ASIAN TEAMS — SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA — HAVE QUALIFIED FOR THE ROUND OF 16 STAGE THIS TIME

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

CBI to question KCR's daughter Kavitha on Tue

Interrogation will happen at her Hyderabad home over bribes in Delhi liquor policy scam

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

The CBI on Friday summoned Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's daughter K Kavitha for questioning in connection with the Delhi liquor scam case. Kavitha has been asked by the CBI to make herself available on December 6.

In a letter dated 2.12.2022 bearing subject "Notice under section 160 CrPC for investigation of case RC 53 (A) 2022 of CBI/ACB/Delhi reg", the CBI said: "The subject cited case has been registered on the basis of written complaint received from Shri Praveen Kumar Rai, Director, MHA, Govt of India vide OM No 14035/06/2022-De;hi-1 dated 22/07/22 u/s 120-B r/w Section 7 of PC Act (as amended in 2018) and Section 477-A of IPC against Shri Manish Sisodia, deputy chief minister, GNCT of Delhi and 14 others regarding the allegation pertaining to excise policy of GNCT of Delhi for the year 2021-22."

The CBI's letter further said, "During the course of investigation of the subject cited case certain facts have emerged with which you may be aquainted with, hence your examination on such facts is required in the interest of investigation."

The letter requested her to inform about her place of residence (Hyderabad or preferably Delhi) as per her convenience for her examination at 11 am on December 6 (Tuesday).

After receiving the CBI letter, Kavitha issued a statement, saying, "I've been issued a CBI notice under Section 160 of CrPC, seeking my clarification. I have informed the authorities that I can meet them at my residence in Hyderabad on December 6 as per their request."

Kavitha was formally named as a suspect in the Delhi liquor scam for the first time by the Enforcement Directorate in a remand application filed by the agency on Thursday for another accused Amit Arora.

The ED alleged in its application that Kavitha was part of a 'South Group' that paid an estimated ₹100 crore bribe to Aam Aadmi Party leaders, some of whom were part of the Delhi government, through a party functionary, Vijay Nair.

South Group

The ED, in its application, alleged that the South Group was controlled by Sarath Reddy, K Kavitha and Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy. It had given kickbacks to the AAP while explaining the modus operandi of the scam

The kin of Meghana, who was killed by a leopard, grieve for her in T Narasipur taluk in Mysuru on Friday | BHAVYASHANKAR S

Foresters look to catch, shoot leopard

The forest department, which had issued a shoot-at-sight order for the elusive leopard that had killed a young woman in Sosale Kebbehundi village in T Narasipura taluk this week, has launched a combing operation to capture or shoot the feline on Friday.

Panic spreads with leopards at B'luru's gates

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

UNCERTAINTY and panic is reigning among Bengalureans, especially those residing on the city outskirts. At least eight sightings of leopards on the fringes of Bengaluru have been reported in the last few days. These are from areas like Turahalli state forest, near Sompura (near Turahalli), Devanahalli, Kengeri, Ramanagara, Kanakapura, Chikkaballapur and Doddaballapur, which have been confirmed by the forest department officials.

The residents, in a state of fear, have been sharing messages on each others' whereabouts, asking to be cautious because of increased spottings of leopards in these areas. Villagers near Gati forest, 6-7 km from Nandi forest, have complained to forest department officials about a calf killed on Thursday night. The forest officials admitted that the incident is not a regular affair. Leopard sightings are being reported from Nelamangala too.

The fear of the leopards is such that on Friday morning, a wedding in Kengeri received very poor guest attendance due to threat of being intercepted by the spotted felines. The families of the bride and groom had made arrangements for around 2,000 guests after taking a loan of over Rs 3 lakh. But less than 500 people turned up, fearing leopard movement in the vicinity.

Moreover, traffic on NICE Road has taken a hit. Besides, the daily routine of people living on the city outskirts has been affected. Office-goers have rescheduled their timings and, in some areas, shop owners refuse to open their establishments after sunset and early morning hours.

A senior forest official told *The New Indian Express*, "There is around 1,500- 2,000 acres of forest and green patch around Bengaluru, which also includes 'gomala' lands (cattle grazing lands) and reserve forest patches. These areas house leopards, but with increased city expansion and rising leopard population, the sightings too have gone up." P5

Court orders arrest of ex-min Chinmayanand

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE MP/MLA court of Shahjahanpur has directed the Uttar Pradesh police to arrest former Union minister Swami Chinmayanand and produce him before the court in connection with an 11-year-old rape case lodged against him by one of his disciples.

Swami Chinmayanand

Special judge Asma Sultana rejected the request made by Chinmayanand's lawyer to allow his client time to appear before court considering his old age and ill health, citing a Supreme Court order that directed him to appear in the Shahjahanpur court by November 30. However, he did not surrender before the court by the deadline. The judge posted the matter on December 9 and directed the police to produce the accused in court.

The case dates back to 2011 when one of the disciples of Chinmayanand lodged a rape case against him. Chinmayanand was the Union minister of state for home in the Vajpayee cabinet.

After the BJP came to power in UP, it started the process for closing the case in 2018. However, the victim opposed the closure proceedings. As a result, the court rejected the application for closure and issued a bailable warrant against the accused.

EXPRESS READ

Moosewala murder mastermind held in US

Chandigarh: Gangster Goldy Brar, the mastermind of the murder of singer Sidhu Moosewala, is learnt to have been detained in California by US authorities | P10

LITERARY EXTRAVAGANZA

The 11th edition of Bangalore Lit Festival begins today

CE: P1

Tied to a pole and beaten up, Dalit youth ends life in Kolar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mulbagal (Kolar)

UNABLE to bear alleged harassment by four persons, a Dalit youth committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree in Mulbagal taluk of Kolar district. The deceased has been identified as Uday Kiran (25), resident of Bevanahalli in Mulbagal.

According to a complaint lodged by Hanumappa, Uday's brother-in-law, the deceased, while going for some work to Bairukuru along with one Nagaraj on a two-wheeler, overtook a biker, Raju, which led to a quarrel between the two and Raju reportedly assaulted Uday. Later, while Uday was returning to Bevanahalli, Raju, along with three others Shivaraj, Gopalakrishnappa and Munivenkatappa waylaid him and snatched his mobile phone. They then told Uday to bring his elders if he wanted his phone back. Uday, however, returned to the village and went back to Pethandahalli alone to take his phone. P4

SHUTTLER

Lakshya Sen booked

High Grounds police station in Bengaluru has registered a case against ace badminaton player Lakshya Sen after a complaint was filed against him for allegedly fudging his age | P3

Govt to KERC: Cut power tariff across state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

MUCH against the usual demand of electricity supply corporations (Escoms) to hike the power tariff, the state government is contemplating to propose to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) to reduce the power tariff by 70 paise to Rs 2.10 per unit, across the state. Understandably, the proposal is being made ahead of the assembly elections which are few months away and also comes in the backdrop of recently held Global Investors Meet and Bengaluru Tech Summit which laid stress on generation of green energy.

Energy Minister V Sunil Kumar told *The New Indian Express* that the proposal was being sent to the KERC. He said this was being done as the power tariff in Karnataka is higher when compared to other states.

He added that the proposal also includes revision of various slabs under which consumers are charged. The idea is to reduce the existing six to seven slabs to three to ensure smooth billing process. P4

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